

# The TEXAS JACK SCOUT



VOLUME IX NO.3

1994 CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

DECEMBER 1994



In front of Josephine and Angelina Morlacchi's gravesite.

Listening to one of our excellent tour guides



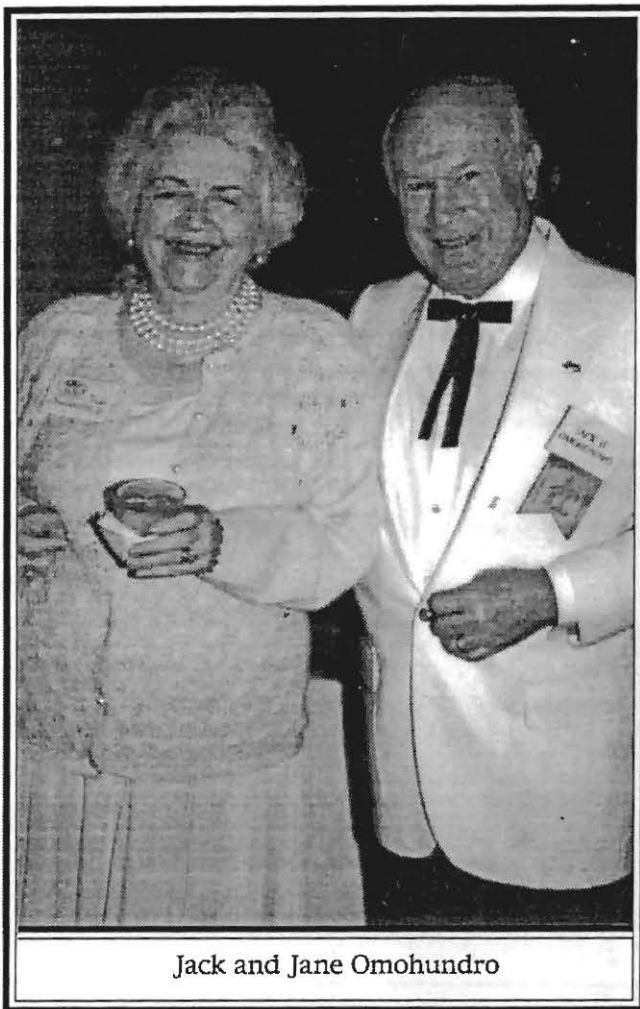
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1994 TJ ROUND-UP

As expected, the 1994 T.J.A. Round-Up held in Lowell, Mass. from July 20 - July 23rd. was a huge success! Our hosts, Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis, planned a busy, informative, stimulating, and fun time for all. Registration began the night July 20th, Wednesday, and everyone took the time to become reacquainted and caught up after two years. In addition to seeing

familiar faces, getting to know new Round-Up attendees was a highlight of the trip!

Bright and early Thursday morning we began our tour of Lowell with an overview of the city by an entertaining and well-informed park ranger. We boarded a trolley, modeled after Lowell's turn of the

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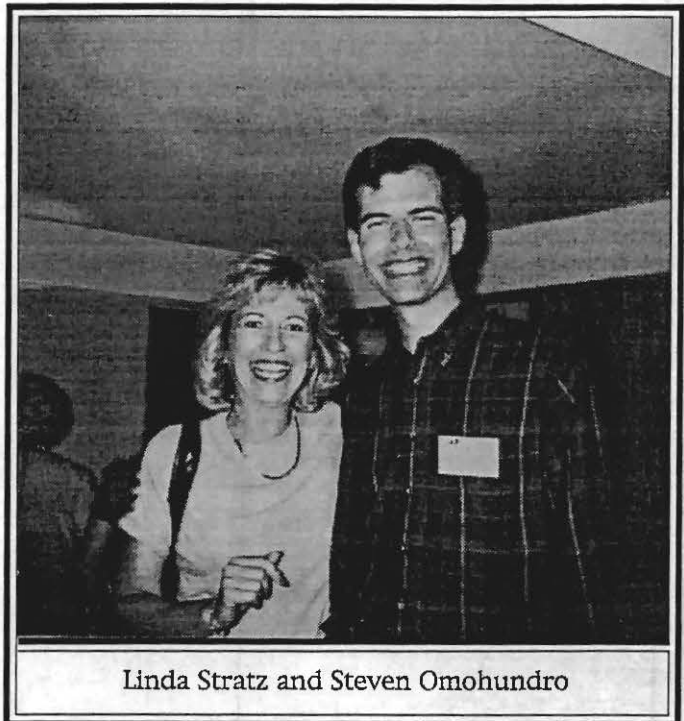
Jack and Jane Omohundro

century streetcars, which took us to the Boot Cotton Mills Museum. Inside we experienced the ROAR of a 1920's weaveroom with fully operational power looms. A short movie educated all about the Industrial Revolution, labor history, and the rise, fall and rebirth of Lowell. Next was the Working People Exhibit which illustrated the human side of the Industrial Revolution. Housed in a Boott Mills boarding house, this exhibit concentrated on the mill girls and successive waves of immigrants that followed.

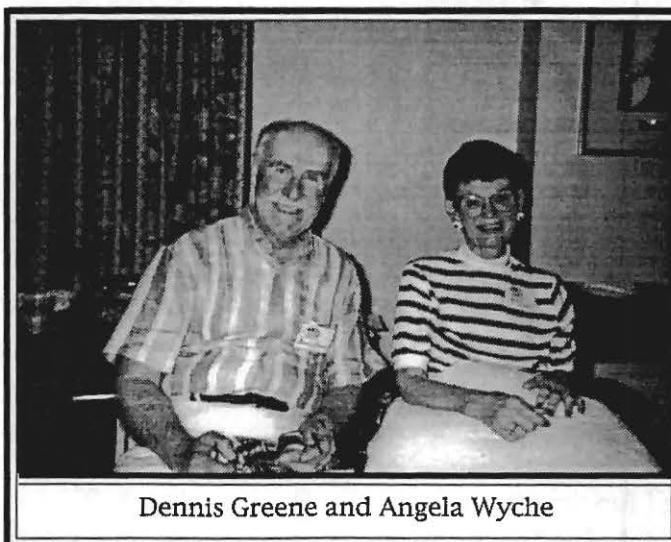
After taking in all that history, everyone was ready for lunch! Lunch was served at the historic Worthen House, built in

1824. We enjoyed a wonderful meal in an authentic New England setting. After lunch everyone was "on their own" until 7:00 pm. when a reception was held at the "Texas Jack and The Peerless Morlacchi" Exhibit. In addition to the excellent exhibit Henry and Peter put together, they also arranged for us to be served delicious home baked treats by the friendly people of Lowell.

Friday morning dawned hot and sunny. We boarded a bus complete with an entertaining and infor-



Linda Stratz and Steven Omohundro



Dennis Greene and Angela Wyche

native tour guide and drove past the Billerica homesite of Texas Jack and Josephine (not much remains of the original buildings). We traveled to Concord and the site of the first shots of the Revolutionary war at the Concord Bridge, now a beautiful and peaceful country stream and fields. Back on the bus, we drove past Walden Pond on our way to the Alcott house in Concord where Louisa May Alcott and her family lived. Lunch was in Lexington where there

were lots of choices! We met back together at the Lexington Green and made our way through the guided

## from the Editor's Desk...



I have enjoyed being the Scout Editor with Rick Brown for the past two years although with a new baby have found it to be somewhat of a challenge. So I'm thrilled to be handing over the responsibility to RANDY McKINNEY. Randy writes and edits technical manuals and will surely lift the Scout to new levels. If anyone has any information for Randy, please send it to him at P.O. Box 66214, Scotts Valley, CA 95067. Also, let's welcome our new slate of officers: HARVEY WILLARD as president, DICK OMOHUNDRO as vice-president, EDNA NEES as secretary, and R.C. OMOHUNDRO as treasurer. The new chairman of the Round-Up committee is RICHARD OMOHUNDRO, SR. All of these people need our full support to make our organization better than it already is. To those who were able to attend the Round-Up this year, Thank you and it was GREAT to see you! To those who couldn't make it, I hope you can join us in Nashville, Tenn. in 1996. See you then!

*Peggy*

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## TEXAS JACK AND THE PEERLESS MORALACCHI



Peerless Morlacchi, 1868

One of the very best surprises of this year's Round-up was the exhibit by Peter Alexis and Henry Kucharzyk in the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center. Henry and Peter did an OUTSTANDING job in compiling and presenting the events in Texas Jack and Josephine's lives. The following is a reprint of the

pamphlet from the exhibit. For those who were able to attend, here it is to enjoy again. For those who missed it, you're in for a treat!

\* \* \* \* \*

One of Lowell's most interesting and unique couples certainly has to be Texas Jack and the Peerless Morlacchi. Just how did a Confederate soldier-turned-cowboy-turned-U.S. Government Scout and plainsman come to meet and marry a classically trained ballerina from Italy? And how did they happen to settle in Lowell?

### The Peerless Morlacchi

Giuseppina "Josephine" Morlacchi was born in 1836, 1843, or 1846, depending on which source you choose (in the 19th century, one never asked a gentlewoman her age!). By the age of six, she was enrolled at the famed ballet school of La Scala in her hometown of Milan. In 1856, Josephine made her debut in Genoa. After traveling the circuit in major European cities such as Rome, Lisbon and London, she was signed by noted manager, John DePol, to headline an American tour.

## This Space Dedicated to the Memory of Aaron Brown

Typesetting and creation of this newsletter has been courtesy of Rick Brown, whose brother Aaron Brown was killed by a drunk driver 2 days before his twentieth birthday this past November 19th 1994. Aaron was a vigorous young man, in the prime of life, cut down by yet another senseless drunk. To his memory we dedicate this space and request of our readers that you participate in any way you feel appropriate to helping law enforcement curb the menace of drunk drivers that threaten us all. Aaron is survived by his loving parents Richard and Philis Brown, his sister Toni and brothers Eric, Tim & Rick all of Saginaw, Michigan.

*Your kind thoughts and comforting prayers for the family are appreciated!*



## THE ONCE FAMOUS DANSEUSE DIES PEACEFULLY AT HER HOME AT EAST BILLERICA.

Along with pictures of the couple and others, the Wrangler Award, and mementos of past Round-Ups, displayed at the Texas Jack & Peerless Morlacchi exhibit, Henry and Peter also displayed some of Josephine's obituaries. They are reprinted here by request

Reprinted from the Lowell Daily News, Saturday,  
July 24, 1886.

### GIUSEPPINA MORLACCHI

Giuseppina Morlacchi, the once celebrated danseuse, died at her residence in East Billerica yesterday morning, of cancer in the stomach, after an illness of nine months. Deceased was born in Milan in October, 1843. She was a natural danseuse, and was born to the ballet, and at the early age of six years she entered the famous school of La Scala, and remained at the place under the best Italian masters for six years. In the spring of 1886 she made her debut at the Carlo Felice Theatre in Genoa, in Perrot's "Faust." The lightness and remarkable grace of her dancing impressed the public at once, and in the spring of 1857 she received an offer from the manager of Her Majesty's Theatre in London, when she accepted. Under Mr. Lumley's management she made great progress, and before she left that theatre she was a premiere. In 1873 she married Mr. J. B. Omohundro, better known to the public as Texas Jack, and she remained with him until he died in 1881. It was a case of true love on her part, and she made her eccentric husband a true and devoted wife. During her professional tours of this country she

appeared in nearly every city of importance in the United States, and achieved a success rarely equalled. Her private life was singularly pure and without blemish, and she had and deserved the respect of all who knew her. She was seriously sick for about nine months, and for some time knew that her days were numbered, and she was well prepared to meet death with resignation, if not to welcome it since she suffered greatly. Mrs. H.A. M'Glenen and other friends were with her at the last, and she passed away peacefully. Her funeral will take place Monday, and she will be buried in Lowell. She was carefully nursed and tended, and was in easy circumstances, though not by any means rich, and what little property she possessed was recently disposed of by will.

Reprinted from the Lowell Daily Courier, Saturday, July 24, 1886.

### A NOTED DANSEUSE GONE DEATH OF MRS. OMOHUNDRO, MLL.E. JOSEPHINE MORLACCHI

Mrs. Josephine Omohundro, widow of J.B. Omohundro, better known as "Texas Jack," died at her summer residence in East Billerica, Friday, aged 39 years and 9 months.

She was a native of Milan. When but six years of age she entered the school at La Scala, where she

# MINUTES OF THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

The 1994 business meeting of the Texas Jack Association was held on July 23rd in Lowell, Massachusetts with 50 members present. The minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved. Anyone wishing a copy of the treasurer's report can receive one by sending a self-addressed envelope to R.C. Omohundro, Jr. at P.O. Box 5, Fork Union, VA 23055.



Updates on several past projects followed. Edna Nees has completed her project of having Texas Jack T-Shirts made and available for sale. She also got Texas Jack postcards printed. The cost of sponsoring a traveling museum still needs to be determined. Hughes Dillar has not yet completed work on a bronze marker for Frank Sullivan's (TJA founder) grave. The project of finding out more about Josephine Morlacchi was completed by Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis who researched and compiled Josephine's life story, as well as finding her gravesite. Bill Milsted has gotten much closer to getting a mountain peak in Yellowstone National Park named after Texas Jack. He is still working on accomplishing this goal. Jack Omohundro, Sr. completed his project of getting Texas Jack inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

(PA) and Gloria Plamer had sent a letter asking for any information that anyone might have in helping them research the Omohundro name. They ask that a copy of resources also be sent to Wesmoreland Historical Society. Dan Omohundro and Michael Omohundro are also researching the Omohundro name. Discussion was held concerning the reprinting or copying of past issues of the Scout for new members who request them. It was decided that professional reprinting is too costly but xerox copies could be made available with minimum expense and effort.

New projects include the placement of marker at Josephine's gravesite to tell her and Texas Jack's story, and a reprint of "Buckskin and Satin". Dennis Greene suggested that we seek the writing of a new book about Texas Jack. Michael Omohundro of Denver volunteered to see about Texas Jack highway marker placements in Leadville. One marker was donated by the Nees family in memory of John S. Nees. Anyone wishing to donate all or part of the cost of the second marker can do so by contacting Harvey Willard.

A new slate of officers volunteered for the next two year term. Our new president is Harvey Willard.

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Discussion also centered around the ongoing problem of dues collection. A decision was made by those present at the meeting to send bills with envelopes and to experiment with other ways to get dues paid. The updating of the Bylaws and Constitution was discussed and it was decided that the new leadership will work on this project. Richard Omohundro

**"THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT"**  
A NON-PROFIT, TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION  
THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.  
A Non-Profit  
Tax-Deductible Corporation

**OFFICERS**

Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond, VA ..... Chairman  
Kitty VanLew Pelkan, Seattle, WA ..... President  
Edna N. Nees, Scottsville, VA ..... Vice-President/Secretary  
R.C. Omohundro, Jr., Fork Union, VA ..... Treasurer  
Peggy Greene, Jupiter, FL ..... SCOUT Editor  
Rick Brown, Watsonville, CA ..... SCOUT Editor  
Jack H. Omohundro Jr., Crowley, LA ..... Director  
\* Frank R. Sullivan, Springfield, IL ..... Founder  
\* Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte, NE ..... Historical Advisor

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Mrs. Henry R. Coe . . . . Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY.  
The Earl of Dunraven VII . . . . Grandnephew of the Earl of Dunraven IV (who authored THE GREAT DIVIDE, HUNTING IN THE YELLOWSTONE, and CANADIAN NIGHTS), County Limerick Ireland.  
Dr. Paul Fees . . . . Curator, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY  
\* Mr. Fred H. Garlow . . . . Grandson of William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, Cody, WY  
\* The Knight of Glin . . . . Great-grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV, County Limerick, Ir. and  
\* Mr. Herschel C. Logan . . . . Author of BUCKSKIN AND SATIN (Photography of Texas Jack) Santa Ana CA  
\* Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost . . . . Author of BUFFALO BILL, THE CALL OF THE RANGE, NO TIME ON MY HANDS, and MEDICINE LODGE, North Platte, NE

\* Biography

Cont. from pg.5

Our new vice-president is Dick Omohundro who will take over as president in 1996. Edna Nees and R.C. Omohundro volunteered to continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Randy McKinney is our new Scout Editor and the new Chairman of the Round-up Committee is Richard Omohundro, Sr. After much debate, it was decided the 1996 Round-up will be held in Nashville, TN.

The meeting closed with the auctioning of Texas Jack memorabilia. Isabella Willard acted as auctioneer and sold a Texas Jack needlepoint coaster set to Jane Omohundro for \$40.00, a Texas Jack needlepoint covered brick to Angela Wyche for \$100.00, and a

Texas Jack paperweight to Richard E. Omohundro, Sr. for \$30.00. All proceeds go to the Texas Jack Association and these items were made and donated by Edna Nees. Also auctioned were framed Texas Jack Omohundro postcards with "Lowell 1994" at the bottom, donated by Peter Alexis and Henry Kucharzyk. These were purchased by Ben Wyche for \$25.00, Dan Omohundro for \$25.00, and Jack Omohundro, Sr. for \$50.00

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next business meeting will convene in Nashville, Tennessee in 1996. See you there!

## SCOUTING REPORT!



**WELCOME!** to..... new member Guy R. Lefebure of Lowell, MA.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to..... Rick and Carole Brown on the birth of their son, Marshall Thomas. He was born on September 14th weighing in at 9 lbs. 5 1/2 ozs. Proud maternal grandparents are Julie and Dennis Greene of Carmel, CA.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO !** to..... Get Texas Jack on a postage stamp! Julie Greene has written to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee about getting Texas Jack on a postage stamp, perhaps as one of the "Legends of the West" series. We know he belongs

there! Get out that pen and paper and let the committee know why John Burwell Omohundro, more popularly known as Texas Jack, is worthy of being on a postage stamp.

He was born in 1846, and lived for just 33 years. During that short period of time he was a Confederate soldier, a cowboy who drove cattle from Texas eastward through St. Louis and up the Chisholm Trail and U.S. Government Scout out of North Platte, Nebraska.

He was partners with Buffalo Bill Cody, both of whom were early dime novel heroes, and who together brought the original Wild West Shows to the eastern stage.

He counted among his best friends, Cody, Wild Bill Hickok, Capt. Jack Crawford, Gen. George Custer, California Joe and most of the other scouts of the prairies.

He has had a biography written about him ("Buckskin and Satin" by Herschel Logan), an organization formed expressly to keep his memory alive (The Texas Jack Association) and in March, 1994 he became the first state actor to be inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, OK.

A Highway marker designates the place of his birth (Fluvanna, VA.), and two are soon to be erected in Leadville, CO. - the place of his death. He is soon to

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remained six years perfecting herself in the profession of a danseuse. Graduating from the academy she visited Genoa and Naples, and in 1862 reached London, where she ultimately became a premier dancer, appearing at Her Majesty's Theatre. In 1864 she visited Florence, Lisbon, Turin, and other continental cities, and while in Lisbon was engaged by royal command to appear at the Royal Theatre at Barcelona, Spain.

During her brief visit to Lisbon she became acquainted with De Poll, the famous manager and artist, and in 1867 came to America, under his management, as the premiere in the De Poll Parisian ballet company, being a counter attraction to Jarrett and Palmer's "Black Crook," and being performed at Niblo's Garden. She made her American debut at Banvard's Museum, New York, and created an immense sensation. From the latter theatre she went to the Academy of Music of New York, from where she came to Boston, appearing for the first time at the old Continental theatre in Washington street, Dec. 23, 1867. In January of the following year she appeared at the Theatre Comique in rear of Jordan, Marsh & Co.'s retail establishment in Washington street, and in the following November returned to that cozy little theatre where she filled most successful engagements.

In December, 1868, she returned to the Continental, which had been rechristened the Olympic, then under the control of J.B. Booth. She appeared at the Boston Theatre in August, 1869, in the "Seven Dwarfs," and in November of the same year began an engagement at Selwyn's theatre, now the Globe, appearing in the spectacular "Midsummer Night's Dream" In June, 1871, she filled a two weeks engagement at the Boston Museum, and in the following December returned to the Boston Theatre, appearing in the "French Spy: and "Wizard Skiff" in company with the Majiltons. In March 1873, she appeared at the Boston Theatre in the "Scouts of the Plain," a combination by Texas Jack, Buffalo Bill and Ned Buntline, and two years later reappeared at the same theatre in "La Bayadere."

In 1873 she married J.B. Omohundro, "Texas Jack," in Rochester, N.Y., and in company with her husband and an organized troupe, visited important cities of Europe.

On the dissolution of the troupe, the deceased

with her husband and sister settled in Lowell. The Suffolk hall property was purchased by them, and they occupied a portion of the building.

Her husband was of a genial disposition and delighted many young people by interesting tales of adventures in the far West and his hunting trip with the Duke Alexis and other prominent people.

The sisters were highly esteemed by their neighbors for their many kind acts. In 1881, Texas Jack again visited the West, and while visiting Leadville with his wife was attacked with pneumonia, which caused his death.

His widow returned to Lowell and resided with her sister at their residences in Lowell and East Billerica. The sister, Angelina Morlacchi, died about a year ago.

For the last nine months the deceased has suffered severely from cancer, which eventually caused her death yesterday morning at eleven o'clock at her Billerica home.

The funeral will occur from St. Joseph's church in this city, Monday morning at 9 o'clock, when a solemn high mass will be celebrated.

Reprinted from the Lowell Morning Mail, Tuesday, July 27, 1886

### **MORLACCHI'S TRIUMPHS.**

(FROM THE SATURDAY EVENING GAZETTE)

The death of the once famous dancer, Morlacchi, recalls the triumphs that attended her in Boston some twenty years ago. Of all the dancers who flocked to this country at that time, she was the only thorough artist; the only one who combined the grace and poetry of the older school with the spirit and brilliancy of the modern. Her "Bee Dance" was one of the most charming bits of terpsichorean art ever seen here. In addition to her high achievements in her profession she was an exceedingly well-read and well-informed woman, and was possessed of the true, artistic instinct generally. She lent a dignity, modesty and intelligence to her art that elevated it through its representative. The great extent in which she was held for her moral worth was no less than that which she had won for herself professionally, and it was fully deserved. The passing away at a comparatively early age of this amiable and gifted woman, unspoiled by success and unsullied by the

temptations through which she passed, will draw a sigh of genuine regret from all who ever had the pleasure to come within the genial influence of her society.

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Reprinted from the Lowell Daily Courier, Monday, July 26, 1886

## MORLACCHI BURIED

### FUNERAL SERVICES OF THE BRILLIANT DANSEUSE.

There is something unspeakably suggestive in the life and death of Morlacchi. To think of a woman who had charmed thousands in two continents, who for years had been one of the brightest stars of the Terpsichorean stage, dying in a little country village, almost friendless and without a relative, is calculated to arouse new reflections upon the uncertainty of mundane existence. They buried her this morning. Two score of friends and few who never saw her, knelt about the catafalque in the main aisle of St. Joseph's church, while the solemn rites of the Catholic faith were performed. Among those present were some of her Billerica neighbors, and Mr. and Mrs. H.A. M'Glenen, whose devoted care of Mrs. Omohundro in her last days made her sufferings less, sat near the coffin. John M. Burke, formerly her agent and now of the Wild West show, arrived too late for the ceremony, but was present at the grave. The church was lighted only by

the tapers on the alter and about the bier, and darkened windows added to the eloquent gloom. The service lasted an hour. There was a high mass, with Fr. Marion celebrant, Fr. Fournier deacon, and Fr. Veillantcourt sub-deacon. A small choir sang the Gregorian requiem, and chanted the pathetic "Libera me, Domine," at the absolution. The casket was borne to Undertakers Davey's hearse by WM. II. Bermingham, Owen Horan, Hough A. McSorley and John A. Hilary. There were several floral pieces, a wreath, a pillow, and one or two other designs. The body was followed to the grave in the Catholic cemetery by a few carriages, and Rev. Fr. Garin read the burial service. The grave was filled up, the flowers placed upon it, and the small company withdrew. The Peerless Morlacchi was at rest.

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# DUES ARE DUE!!

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**WHAT YOU CAN DO!** to ..... Ensure the continued success of TJA! **PAY YOUR DUES IN A TIMELY MANNER!** Dues are due on January 1st of every year. The fee for one year's membership is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children age 12 and under. All dues and monetary contributions are tax-deductible. Subscription to the Texas Jack Scout is included with membership. As everyone knows, dues and contributions are the sole source of income for the association and the cost of publishing the Scout is considerable. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO:**

**R.C. Omohundro, Jr.**  
**P.O. Box 5**  
**Fork Union, VA 23055**

# JAN. 1 1995

Mademoiselle (Mlle.) Morlacchi made her American debut in the ballet extravaganza, *The Devil's Auction* in New York October 23, 1867. By December, the company moved to Boston, where the choreographer became ill and returned to New York. Now, Josephine had the opportunity to do her own choreography, something she had been wanting to try.

As both prima ballerina and choreographer, Mlle. Morlacchi met the challenge. She relished developing new ideas and dance steps. In Boston, she arranged a can-can for the featured dancers, thus becoming the first person to introduce this French dance style to America. The can-can became a permanent addition to most of her productions. As the can-can rapidly spread further west, other troops took the liberty to develop it into a wilder and racier number than Josephine's version.

Celebrated as one of the premiere dancers in the country, *the Peerless Morlacchi*, as she was known, used her fame to fight for the rights of lesser known cast members. The entertainment business could be unscrupulous in the 1860's and 1870's. Many times, a dancer, actor, or other entertainer had no recourse if a promoter or agent did not honor his or her contract or if a theater manager ran off with that evening's receipts. Naturally, the lower the actor's billing, the greater the opportunity for someone to take advantage of that actor. On many occasions, Josephine stood up on behalf of the younger dancers and looked out for their interests.

Although she had traveled to many different cities, Mlle. Morlacchi enjoyed the atmosphere of Boston most of all. While she loved performing in Boston, she never really wanted to live in a big city. In addition to ballet and choreography, another dream was to own her own home in the country and at the same time have access to Boston by railroad.

One community that fit her needs was Billerica. By December, 1869, Josephine and her older sister, Angelina, purchased a farmhouse along with twenty acres of land in East Billerica. Another benefit to living in Billerica's countryside was its proximity to Lowell and all that the mill city had to offer. Lowell had 40,000 people and hundreds of businesses by this time.

In many ways, Josephine was an anomaly for a 19th century entertainer. Firstly, she saved her money wisely which, enabled her to purchase the farm. Secondly, and more significantly, Josephine was able to preserve the dichotomy between her on-and-off-stage personae. On-stage, she was *the Peerless Morlacchi*, while off-stage, she was Josephine, a quiet, almost shy woman whose idea of relaxation was doing chores around the farm. She was never caught up in her fame.

In the short span of twenty-six months since her arrival in the United States, Josephine had quickly become the premiere danseuse of the American ballet scene. She was adored by the public, sought after by theaters, had purchased a beautiful farmhouse for Angelina and herself, had formed her own troupe and established herself as a champion for the rights of other dancers.

While not on tour, Mlle. Morlacchi spent all of her free time in Billerica and frequently visited Lowell. Both in Billerica and in Lowell, she was respected and cherished not because she was a famous ballerina, but because she was a kind person and a thoughtful neighbor. Things were going so well for Josephine that she sent for her widower father to emigrate to America and share their farmhouse.

## Texas Jack

John Baker Omohundro was born July 26, 1846, near Palmyra, in Fluvanna County, Virginia. Like many youngsters during this era, Jack was particularly interested in the outdoors. While still a boy, he became a skilled hunter, fisherman, and horseback rider.

By 1861, Jack had made his way to Texas in hopes of working on a cattle ranch. Soon after the Civil War began, Jack received news that his older brother, Orville, had joined the confederate Army. Jack returned to Virginia and attempted to enlist also, only to be turned down because of his age. However, he did serve as a courier for General John B. Floyd.

In 1864, Jack enlisted as a private in Orville's company. Despite his gaining notoriety in Virginia as

the *Boy Scout of the Confederacy*, 1864 proved to be a dismal year for Jack; General J.E.B. Stuart was shot and killed just moments after Jack delivered him a message. Five weeks later, Jack himself was wounded. But it was during the fall when the Confederate Army was losing ground, that Jack heard the worst possible news; his mother had died after a long illness.

Following the war, Jack returned to Texas and the cattle ranches. For the next two and a half years, he continued his cattle drives, mostly along the famous Chisholm Trail. Late in the summer of 1869, one such trek took Jack further north into Nebraska, along the Platte River. After the drive was completed, he decided to settle in the prairie city of North Platte on the river. It was here that he met a man whose life paralleled his own so closely that a lasting friendship bloomed.

Buffalo Bill Cody had arrived in the Platte Valley about four months before Jack. Serving as a scout with the U.S. Army, Bill had recently been assigned to Fort McPherson, about seventeen miles down river from North Platte. At Bill's request, Jack moved down to the fort later that winter.

Jack tried his hand at bar-tending and also became a teacher for children at the fort. As an ex-Confederate soldier, it was nearly impossible for him to get a government job. Through his friend's perseverance, Jack finally received his official appointment as United States Scout.

Whether hunting, scouting or dealing in Indian Affairs, Jack had established himself as one of the most popular men west of the Mississippi and the equal of his friend, Buffalo Bill. Due to his Indian blood, Jack was able to communicate and empathize with Native American tribes. He was the particular favorite of the gentle Pawnee tribe.

His fame, like Buffalo Bill's, soon spread east, kindled by the popularity of the dime novel. The exploits of Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack, related by popular authors such as Ned Buntline, reached a wide audience through these small books crammed with easy-to-read adventures.

Inspired by the success of his dime novels,

Buntline decided that if he could get these famous plainsmen on stage with one of his western scripts, audiences everywhere would flock to see them. Buntline realized that people considered Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack the living embodiment of the American West.

By the late fall of 1872, Buntline wrote Bill Cody, explaining his idea. At first, Bill wanted nothing to do with it, but with Jack's encouragement, he finally acquiesced, with the condition that Jack would go with him. They were to go to Nixon's Opera House in Chicago by December 16. Neither one knew what to expect.

### "The Scouts of the Prairie"

Even though he had not even thought about what to write for a script, Buntline was not concerned. His only foreseeable problem was the female lead. He needed someone with state experience as well as a nationally recognized name. *The Peerless Morlacchi* and her troupe had just completed an engagement at Nixon's Opera House the previous week. Buntline asked Josephine if she would consider playing the role of an Indian maiden. Always interested in new challenges, Josephine accepted the offer. Buntline called the drama, *The Scouts of the Prairie*.



Texas Jack in 1877

Its popularity surpassed Buntline's wildest dreams. It was obvious that the public did not mind if the actors missed a line or ad-libbed as long as Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill were portraying themselves. They toured most major Eastern cities, playing to packed houses night after night. The popularity of both the play and its stars continued to grow.

It did not take long for the cast to notice that Josephine and Jack were spending  
Cont. next page



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

We would appreciate knowing how you feel about the newsletters that you have been receiving. Do they contain information that you find interesting? Or not? Do you have any suggestions or contributions? If so, we welcome them, and we need them!

**Texas Jack Association, Inc.**  
C/O Randy McKinney, P.O. Box 66214  
Scotts Valley, CA 66214

more and more time together. Yet, at the end of the first season in June of 1873, they went different ways. Josephine continued touring with her ballet troupe,



Ned Buntline, Buffalo Bill Cody, Josephine Morlacchi and Texas Jack Omohundro, the original cast of *Scouts of the Prairie*, 1872.

while Jack was hired as a scout for hunting parties out west. However, they must have been thinking about each other all summer because one week before the opening of the show's second season, on August 31, 1873, Josephine and Jack were married at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Rochester, New York. Although she was legally Josephine Omohundro, she continued billing as Mlle. Morlacchi. The retention of her maiden name was in keeping with her progressive nature, as well as her stature as a star.

Some changes took place over the next few

seasons; Ned Buntline was replaced by Wild Bill Hickok. New plays were written and more actors hired. Yet the popularity of the western dramas never waned. Jack and Josephine could no spend as much time as they wanted back home, so what little free time they had was spent on the farm.

After the finish of the 1875-76 season, Jack and Josephine decided that they did not wish to tour so extensively. On the other hand, Buffalo Bill knew that this was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. Texas Jack and Bill parted company the best of friends.

Jack occasionally wrote articles for various New York publications or was hired as a guide for a hunting party. For the most part, however, he and Josephine were in semi-retirement. They enjoyed Lowell so much that they bought Suffolk Hall, at the corner of Market and Suffolk Streets (where Charlie's Corner and the Contakos Bar are presently located). At the time, Suffolk Hall was a three story structure; the first floor was composed of storefronts, the second floor was the hall, while the third contained apartments. Whenever they were out of town, Angelina Morlacchi took care of both Suffolk Hall and the farmhouse (which they new referred to as "the summer home").

## End of the Trail

By the spring of 1880, they decided to tour Colorado. Jack had been interested in the new silver-mining boom town of Leadville. Both had a small troupe touring the area. Due to the high elevation and poor air quality, Jack caught a cold, which developed into pneumonia.

Josephine tried to nurse him back to health, never leaving his side, but nothing helped. Jack was only 33 years old when he died on June 28, 1880.

After the funeral, Josephine returned to Lowell. Once in a great while, the Peerless Morlacchi danced in small productions in Lowell, but she never again toured. She taught dancing and volunteered her time and services to the community. The one goal which she never managed to accomplish was to open a dancing school for the mill girls.

Cont. next page

Her sister, Angelina, suffered a stroke and subsequent paralysis. Josephine cared for her until Angelina's death August 18, 1885. Not long afterwards, Josephine was

bedridden with stomach cancer and died on July 23, 1886, far from her birthplace and with no family at all, although she did have many friends. Both sisters are buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Lowell.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Very special thanks to Dennis and Julie Greene

Jennifer J.L. Alexis  
James Contakos  
Kathy Fleming  
David Ginieres  
Margaret Ingraham  
Gretchen Sanders Joy  
Guy R. Lefebvre  
Martha Mayo  
Juliet Mofford  
Autumn Printing  
Buffalo Bill Historical Center

The Lowell Gallery  
Lowell Historic Preservation Commission  
Lowell Museum Cultural Fund  
Lowell National Historical Park  
Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs  
Texas Jack Association, Inc.  
University of MA/Lowell Center for Lowell History  
Martha Norjunas  
Photos Courtesy of the Dennis J. and Julie Greene Collection  
Charles Stearns  
John Trickett



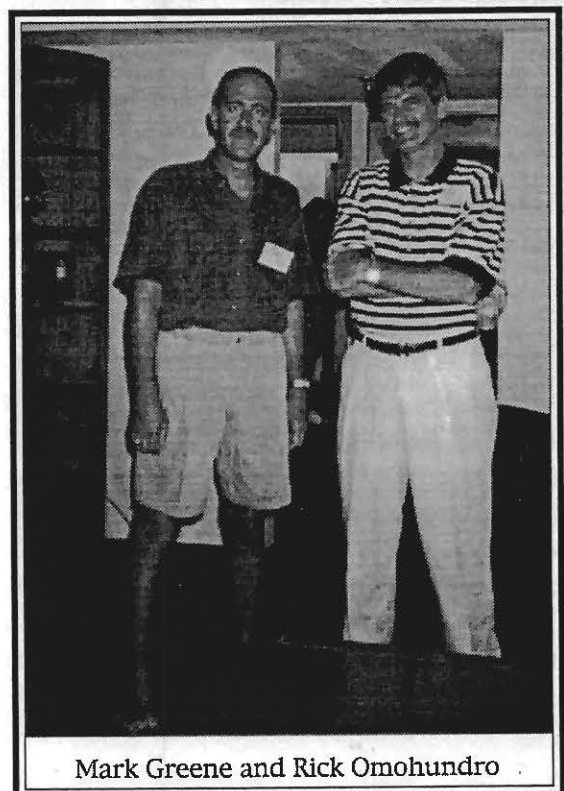
Henry Kucharzyk, Edna Nees, Jessica Golladay,  
Marie Banton, and Elisabeth Kucharzyk

Cont. from pg.2

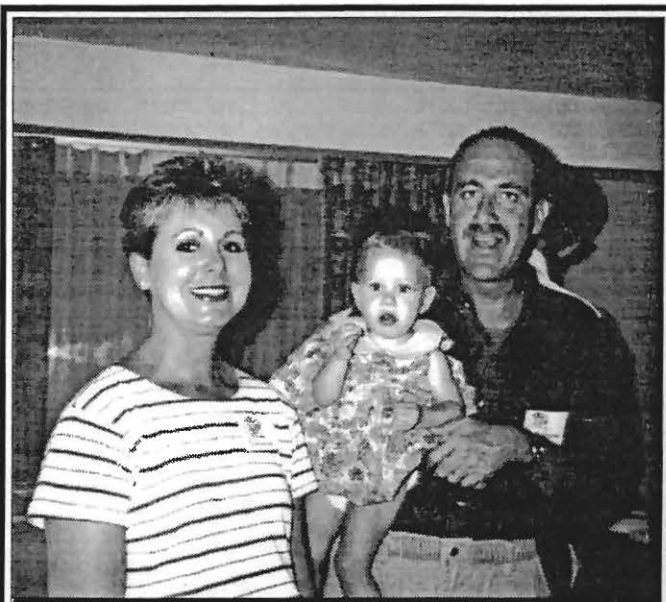
tour of the tavern. Then back to the hotel. After dinner, Dennis Greene brought out his tape of Texas Jacks's induction into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame so we could all see it. Of course, lots of socializing followed!

Saturday morning we met again to see St. Joseph's Church in downtown Lowell where Josephine's funeral services were held. Father Gagnon told us some of the history of the church as well as some of his very interesting personal concerns. We then traveled to the cemetery to Josephine's gravesite to place a wreath and listen to a prayer led by Father Gagnon. Later in the day the business meeting was

held, the minutes of which are published in this issue of the Scout. A grand banquet on Saturday night proved to be the perfect ending to the long-awaited Round-Up. All too quickly it was over and we didn't wish to say good-bye. Instead we echoed the phrase spoken in Cody, North Platte, Richmond, Leadville, and San Antonio—"See you in two years!"



Mark Greene and Rick Omohundro



Nancy Omohundro, Lindsay and Mark Greene



Randy Golladay, Henry Kucharzyk,  
and Jessica Golladay



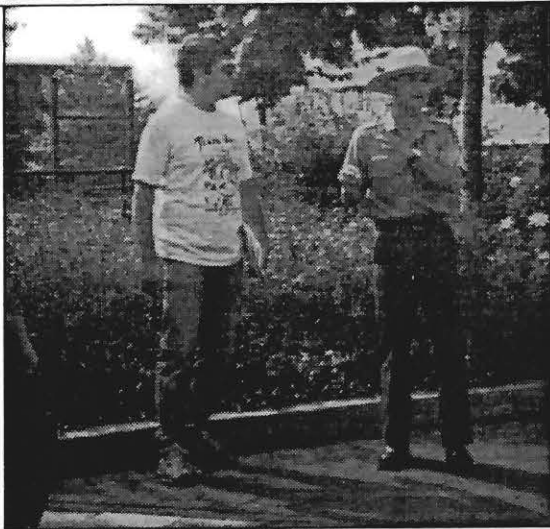
Sheryll, Jane, and Dick Omohundro



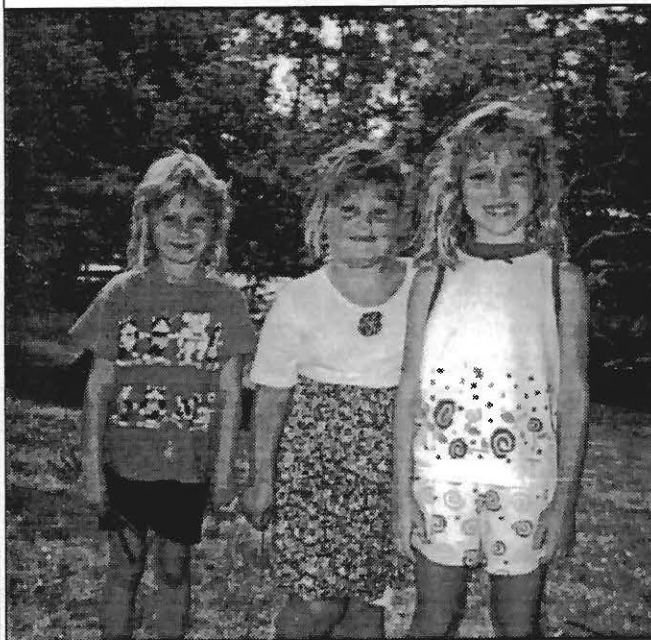
Peter Alexis, M.H. Omohundro, and Laura Greene



Mary Golladay and Peggy Greene



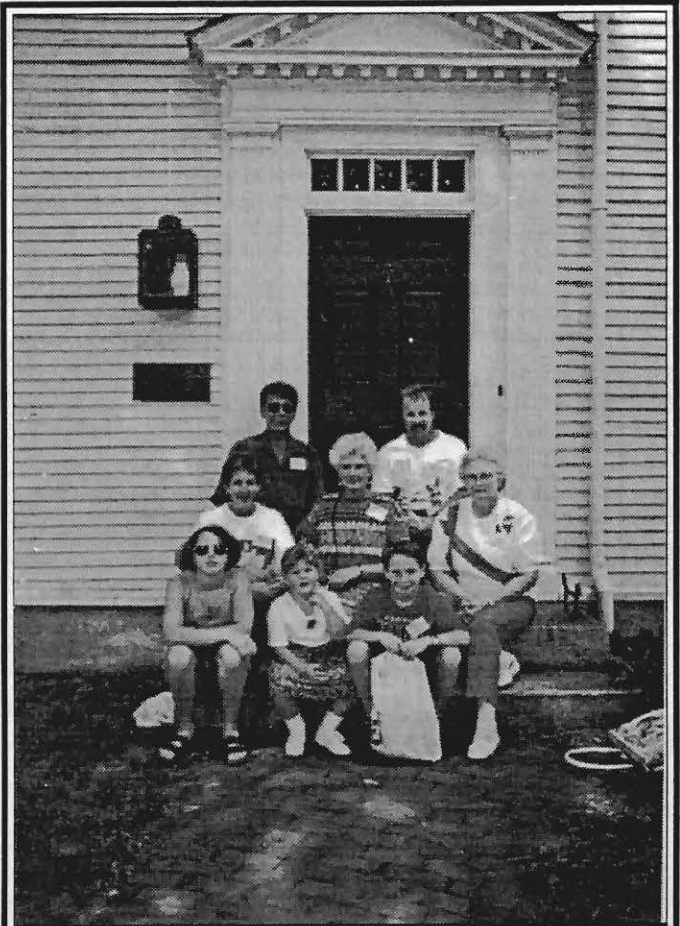
Henry Kucharzyk and one of our excellent tour guides



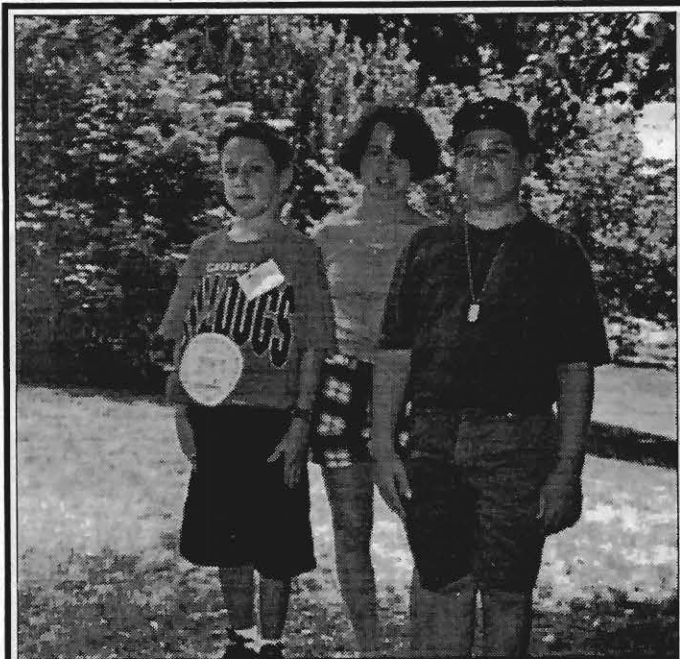
L-R Stephanie Greene, Meghan Banton,  
& Laura Greene



June and Ben Wych



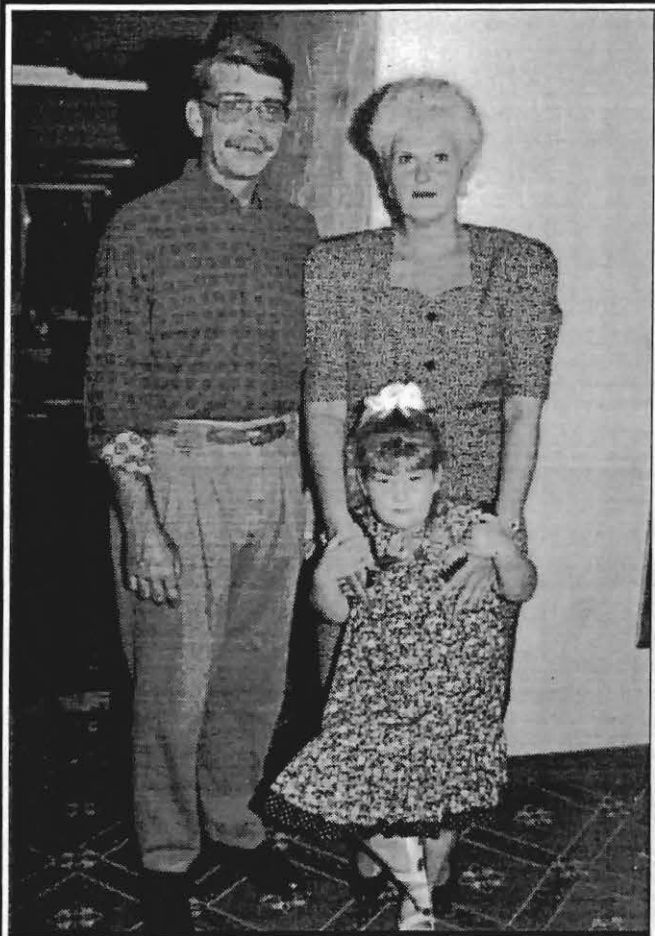
Steve Banton, Randy Golladay, Mary Golladay,  
Marie Banton, Edna Nees, Jessica Golladay,  
Meghan Banton, and Joshua Gollada



Joshua and Jessica Golladay, and  
Brandon Omohundro

# SEASONS GREETINGS

FROM ALL OF US!



Steve Marie, and Meghan



Isabella and Harvey Willard, and Julie Greene



Richard Omohundro, Sr., Richard Omohundro, Jr.,  
and guest



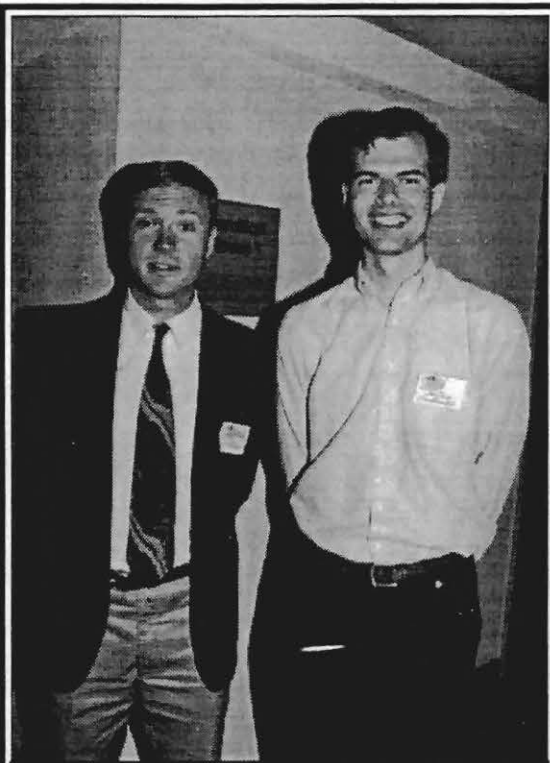
Peter & Jennifer Alexis, and  
Elizabeth & Henry Kucharzyk



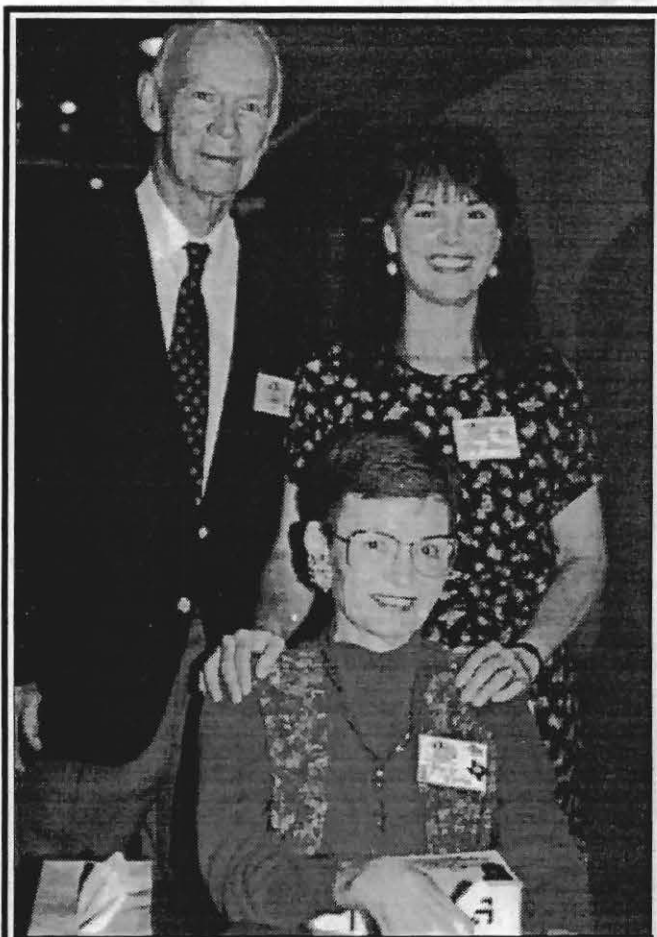
Dennis Greene & Guests



Dan Omohundro and Guest



Randy McKinney and Steven Omohundro



Mal, Kitty, and Angela Wyche

## SPOTLIGHT ON:

# HENRY KUCHARZYK AND PETER ALEXIS

Henry and Peter are almost single-handedly responsible for putting together one of the best Round-ups the Texas Jack Association has ever had! Some might be wondering just who ARE Henry and Peter and how did they get involved with Texas Jack and Josephine. Henry, who owns Hefco Wiring Co. of Lowell, and Peter, a library assistant at Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, met four years ago when Henry walked into the library's archives and asked Peter about Josephine Morlacchi. "He said she'd died in 1886. I'd never heard of her and nobody else had," said Peter. "" But I put the paper on the microfilm reader and there was a big story about her death on the front page. We just got into the whole thing." A friend had sent Henry a copy of the Scout, which mentioned that Texas Jack and Josephine had lived in Lowell.

Henry and Peter graciously consented to answer a questionnaire so that we could get to know them a little bit better.

### HENRY KUCHARZYK

**BIRTHPLACE:** Chicago, Ill. However, I grew up in a small rural community in Wisconsin.

**PERSONAL:** single, energetic and practical.

**SCHOOLING:** I was educated at local grade and high schools in Wisconsin. Received degrees and training in Milwaukee and the U.S. Navy. Obtained my bachelors degree and U/Mass at Lowell in 1984 in Economics and Political Science.

**EMPLOYMENT:** I am a master electrician, having operated my business, Hefco Wiring Co. Inc. for twenty-one years. I also own apartment and commercial buildings in the greater Lowell area.

**BEST THING ABOUT LOWELL, MASS:** The famous people, architecture and geography have made and will continue to be a destination by the many who are interested in history and magnetized by mankind's past.

**BEST THING ABOUT HOSTING A TJA**

**ROUNDUP:** Having received all the positive feedback from the TJA membership. We have a perfect setting here in Lowell and two (Josephine and Texas Jack) excellent reasons to meet in this locale.

**WORST THING ABOUT HOSTING A TJA ROUND-UP:** Dealing with the disappointment(s) of altering schedules and plans at the least opportune time(s). You cannot start soon enough to plan and the people in attendance must register as early as possible.

**MY GREATEST ASSETS:** My inquiring mind and being left-handed.

**MY GREATEST WEAKNESS:** My lack of patience-because time is so precious and in limited quantity.

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Has not yet taken place.

**IF I COULDN'T BE A BUSINESS OWNER I'D:** be in the "antiques and crafts; market, restoration and/or trade.

**MY PERSONAL HERO:** Thomas Jefferson

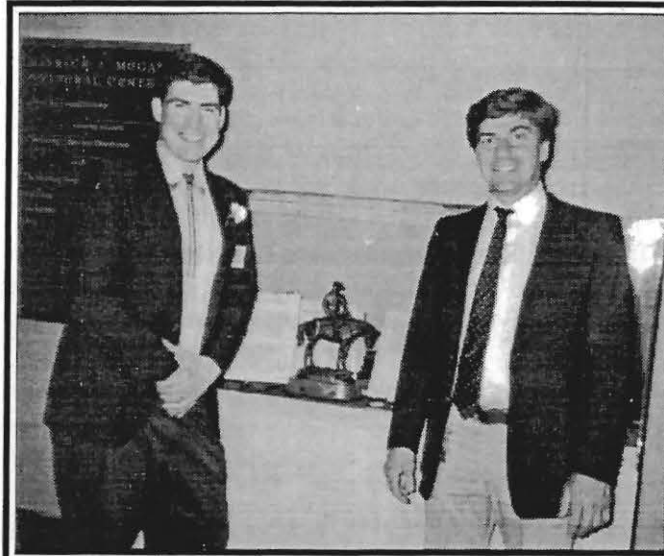
**MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY:** Emphasize the positive in every situation; avoid negative sources, people, places, things and habits.

**BEST MOVIE I'VE SEEN LATELY:** Pacific Heights - It is the story about a young couple who acquire a piece of rental property, remodel it and naively rent to "qualified" tenants - then the plot becomes more complex. It is quiet captivating!

**BEST BOOK I'VE READ LATELY:** EMMELINE by Judith Rossner (she wrote Looking For Mr. Goodbar) - the movie starring Diane Keaton. The story is about the life of a young girl. She left Maine to work in Lowell at a mill in 1835. Lowell had just become a city and was experiencing rapid growth. Her life was a series of both happiness and tragedy. The irony will stir every emotion and some you have yet to discover.

### PETER ALEXIS

**BIRTHPLACE:** Lowell, Mass.



Henry Kucharzyk and Peter Alexis

**PERSONAL:** I'm a 32 year old, married, white male.

**SCHOOLING:** I graduated from Colby College, Waterville, Maine, on May 20, 1984.

**EMPLOYMENT:** I'm employed by the City of Lowell, working at the Public Library (mostly in the Local History Dept.) since November 28, 1988.

**BEST THING ABOUT LOWELL:** Great ethnic diversity. My family lives here. Too many things to put my finger on.

**BEST THING ABOUT HOSTING A TJA ROUND-UP:** This being my first Round-Up I would have to say meeting and spending time with a great group of people.

**WORST THING ABOUT HOSTING A TJA ROUND-UP;** You always think that you will have more time to do this or see that. The time goes by too fast.

**MY GREATEST ASSETS:** I know my limitations.

**MY GREATEST WEAKNESS:** I have too many limitations.

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Getting married to the most incredible person in the world.

**MY PERSONAL HERO:** I can't say that there is one person. Maybe a strange mix of Homer Simpson, Calvin Coolidge, Elvis Presley & Marvin Hagler.

**MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY:** 1. Don't worry be Happy! 2. Don't think too much!

**BEST MOVIE I'VE SEEN LATELY:** It's probably already a couple of years old, but I really enjoyed "The Player."

**BEST BOOK I'VE READ LATELY:** Cry The Beloved Country by Alan Paton. It's my favorite book-I just reread it over vacation.

Sources: The Lowell Sun, June 29, 1994. pg.32 ( Henry Kucharzyk, Lowell, Mass) + (Peter Alexis, Lowell Mass.)

## 1994 ROUND-UP ROLL CALL

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**1994 ROUND-UP ROLL CALL (Continued)**  
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Peter Alexis  
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 Lowell, MA 01852

## JUST FOR FUN



Back o' every action is an idee...good or bad.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate sum folks are downrite religious... they worship themselves constantly.

\* \* \*

With no aim in life I cal'ate you are like a boat without a rudder.

\* \* \*

Shades o' th' Ole West... men kin still die with their boots on...on th' accelerator, that is.

\* \* \*

Ain't it strange how sumthin' is allus cumin' up t' spoil a sea voyage.

\* \* \*

Th' ole steam calliope would be a good accompaniment t' sum o' this modern singin'... then mebbe you couldn't hear th' singin.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate you don't allus hev t' be a ball player t' be off yore base.

\* \* \*

I'm glad t' attend church on th' Sabbath... it sort'o' let's th' world know whose side I'm on.

\* \* \*

When I wuz a lad early settlers meant th' pioneers... nowadays it means those that pay on th' first o' th' month.

\* \* \*

It wuz m'ole frend Shiff who wrote me that... "Thots, unexpressed, may sumtimes fall back dead. But God Himself cain't kill'em once they're sed."

\* \* \*

Sufferin' an' pain I cal'ate don't depend on th' color o' yore skin... or whether yore skin is wrinkled er smooth.

\* \* \*

Whut's yore hurry... you'll be pushin' up daisies fer a long, long time once you're out ther.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate whut God sez t' you in th' hereafter... d'pends on whut you've sed t' Him here.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate th' reason why sum folks act like a baby... is probably due t' th' fact that they wuz born that way.

\* \* \*

One o' th' real joys o' life is t' know that you hev planted a rose in sumone's life... 'nstead o' a thorn.

\* \* \*

Grandmother used t' say that her bustle wuz a stern necessity.

\* \* \*

We used t' sing 'bout th' "ole Time Religion"... now I cal'ate we could use sum o' it mighty bad.

\* \* \*

A fool tells you wher t' git off... but I cal'ate it's th' wise man that helps you git back on.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate th' only difference b'tween dancin' an' wrestlin' is that sum holds are barred in wrestlin'.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate most everythin' in th' modern home seems t' be controlled by switches... 'xceptin' th' children.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate th' only reason fer sum folks singin' would be a defective lock on th' bathroom door.

\* \* \*

I cal'ate it's yore actions an' deeds they leave footprints in th' sands o' time... rather than th' words you speak.

\* \* \*

Whut this country needs is less reform... an' more perform.

\* \* \*

If you think you are perfect in yore own eyesite... then I cal'ate it's time t' hev yore eyes tested.



SCOUT REPORT Cont. from pg.3

Have a peak in Yellowstone National Park named for him, and a motion picture film about his life is being seriously considered.

Although his name is well known among serious students of America's Wild West, as far as the general public is concerned, he is the "Forgotten Scout".

Let's remedy this situation by starting a letter writing campaign. Last time it resulted in Texas Jack being inducted into the NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME! So get out those pens and send a letter to:

**CITIZENS STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA S. W.  
ROOM 4474E  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20260-2437**



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to my wife Carole for helping me with all of the typesetting, my daughter Melisa for being so understanding, Peggy, Dennis & Julie for their contribution & most of all Thanks to the members of the Texas Jack Association for your future support. Have a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

Subscription is included in membership dues of \$15.00 annually from January 1st

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